

Leaving a Legacy: Creating a Family History Book

Step 1 – Scope and Span

- Identify your end game. What do you envision as your final product?
- Don't get caught up in the one giant book when there are so many options.
- Your family history book can cover a single person's life, one specific event or time in their life
- One surname line or two converging surnames
- Your family history book could be a collection of short stories of your more pivotal ancestors
- It may be a novel and epic family narrative
- Or it could be a series of books each one dealing with a different generation, or different family or surname or person.

Tip – One Ancestor. One Story. One Book. – to publish in a smaller book.

Step 2 - Gather Your Research

- Bring research in one place. Create a story box.
- You get an idea of what your story or stories might be about
- You recognize gaps in your research

Tip- Create a Timeline – Put your ancestor's life on a timeline.

Timeline Apps – Timelines, TimeToast

Step 3 - Set a Budget

- Print on Demand vs. Offset Printing
- Budget – See Budget page
- ISBN – International Standard Book Number Library and Archives Canada
- <http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/services/isbn-canada/Pages/isbn-canada.aspx>

Tip – Revisit the End Game

Step 4 - Identify Stories and Profiles

- Stories,
- What is an Ancestor Profile?
- What is a Family History Narrative?
- Create a list of stories and profiles to be written with timelines.

Step 5 - Schedule your writing

- Put it on the calendar
- Block out distractions

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- Set writing targets for yourself
- Writing groups, partners

Step 6 - Revisions and Edits

- Your stories are going to go through multiple stages of revisions and editing.
- Once you've gotten that first draft down
- Step back briefly
- Print out paper copy / red pen
- Revise, Revise, revise
- Second or third set of revisions
- Beta Readers
- Final Edits
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Step 7 - Formatting

- You choose the font, the size of the font the line spacing and insert pictures.
- Cover design
- Who will format your book?
- This can be a finicky project and depending on how you plan to print your project
- Different printers have different expectations as to how they want the work submitted, know this in advance.

Tip: Microsoft Word is not the best place to format your book

Step 8 - Print and Distribute

- How much time your printer needs
- Request a Proof
- How will you distribute
- Take orders in advance
- Shipping costs to Family
- Canada Post- Find a Rate

<https://www.canadapost.ca/cpotools/apps/far/business/findARate?execution=e1s1>

Tip: Create a Team

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POD - Print on Demand	Offset Printing
Provide software	Supply files to specifications may require Adobe InDesign
Set the price and order copies as needed	Order number of copies prior to printing, price is based on volume
Sell commercially	Sell commercially
Sometimes copies at reduce cost for author	Maybe a minimum number to order.
Helpful website and templates. Added cost for design services	Provide design services at an added cost
ISBN number	ISBN number
Price Calculator	Price Calculator
Often checks and balances in place	Working with a human being
Lulu http://www.lulu.com/create/books/	Sure Print https://sureprintanddesign.ca/
Blurb http://www.blurb.ca/	First Choice Books https://firstchoicebooks.ca/
MyCanvas https://www.mycanvas.com/	
KDP (Amazon) https://kdp.amazon.com/	

Further Resources

Workbooks

Getting Ready to Write, Workbook #1

Authentic Ancestors, Workbook #2

Finding the Story, Workbook #3

Writing the Family History Scene, Workbook #4

Build a Family History Book

Family History Writing Studio www.familyhistorywritingstudio.com

Watch for Our 2019 Online Course Schedule

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Item	Option #1:	Option #2:	Option #3:	Option #4:
Page Cost Initial page count Cost of extra pages Maximum pages				
<u>Color</u> or Black and White				
Book Binding 1. 2. 3.				
Cover Design				
ISBN Number				
Editing Costs				
Formatting/Design Costs				
Photo Restoration				
Printing Costs				
Bulk Order Discounts				
Shipping Costs				
Distribution Costs				